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# Iowa Library Quarterly

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## State Library Board

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JUDGE T. G. GARFIELD

JESSIE M. PARKER, Superintendent of Public Instruction

BLANCHE A. SMITH, Librarian

Office—State Historical Building, Des Moines

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Dear Librarians:

Before you've really recovered from Christmas you're going to hear the bells ring and the whistles blow to tell you that it's 1946. HAPPY NEW YEAR! We don't have to remind you that 1946 is an important year for Iowa—her hundredth birthday—but we do want you to know that it's a great big year for the Iowa Library Association.

Sometime, probably in the spring, there's going to be a state meeting in Des Moines. Think of it! After five years you're going to see your ILA friends again at last. This meeting is going to be something pretty special—one of those that sends you home just bursting with energy and enthusiasm.

There will be district meetings again in the fall. You all remember those pleasant sessions when you exchange shop talk with your neighbors and gather new ideas for your own job.

And, although 1946 is not a legislative year, we think hard work this year will put us in a position to roll that county library bill right through early in the next session. The legislative committee has plans for some solid effort, not just for themselves but for all of us.

So you can see that this is no year for wallflowers and sideliners. Librarians and all library assistants can get in on the fun and help with the work by sending $1.00 to the ILA treasurer, Alice Lammers (Central College Library, Pella). Make your library a hundred per center, with the library and every person on the staff a member of the ILA.

Let's make 1946 the greatest year the Iowa Library Association has ever known!

**Margaret E. Davidson**, Chairman
Membership Committee
Iowa Library Association

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings:

A library year has just closed under the inspirational leadership of Lydia Margaret Barrette. The excellent issue of the Iowa Library News portrays the achievements of the Iowa Library Association, and gives direction for the work during the coming year.

The Iowa Library Association must be awake to the opportunities and possibilities of these postwar days. If the ideals for which our country has been giving its all are to be achieved, there must be an enlightened citizenry. The complexity of these times puts a great responsibility on the citizen to keep himself well informed, and on the government to provide the means. The public library is the institution best qualified to assist in this adult education. Therefore, the Iowa Library Association must work for the accomplishment of county wide library service for every one of the 99 counties of Iowa. To realize this goal the public must be fully informed in regard to the proposed county library legislation, and active, enthusiastic state wide interest must be aroused. If this is done there will be a popular demand for the legislation and its enactment at the next session of the State Legislature will be assured. Helen Rex, Legislative Chairman, and her committee did a fine piece of work during the last session of the Legislature. The county library bill passed the Senate but was lost in the maze of bills in the last frenzied days of the session. This must not happen again.

It has been three years and more since the Iowa Library Association has had a state meeting, so the Executive Board decided to ask the membership if they would like to have a meeting this spring. The membership has voted overwhelmingly in favor so now plans are under way for the meeting to be held in Des Moines, May 1st through the 3rd, with Headquarters at the Hotel Fort Des Moines. This year Iowa is celebrating her 100th birthday, and it is planned to offer a program worthy of the Centennial year. Please make your plans now to attend.

Iowa must not be satisfied until there is library service for all Iowans, supported as generously and freely as are the public schools. This is our challenge. Its accomplishment rests with you.

**Ruth Hollingshead,** President
Iowa Library Association

## IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PUBLICITY CONTEST

1. To whom open—All librarians who are members of the I. L. A. are eligible to enter.

2. What the contest is — There will be two prizes offered. One for the best collection of newspaper and magazine publicity appearing between November 1, 1945, and one week previous to the spring meeting and the other for the best single publicity feature appearing during the same time.

3. Prizes offered—For the best collection dues will be paid to the I. L. A. for five years and registration to the convention. For the best single item dues will be paid for one year and registration to the convention.

4. Rules—Entries will be judged on neatness, originality and the contribution they have made in publicizing the library as a service organization to the community. Entries must be at the office of the Iowa Traveling Library one week previous to the opening of the convention. All entries must have the name of the librarian, name of the library and the city and the number of the state district.

5. Judging is to be done by a newspaper man to be selected from the Des Moines area.

For additional information write to Lillian M. Enlow, East High School, Waterloo, Iowa.

**Lillian M. Enlow,** Chairman
I. L. A. Publicity Committee

## YOUR IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

There is inspiration, as well as strength, in numbers. And there is much enthusiasm to be derived from contact with those who are doing the same kind of work that you are doing. There are organizations made up of people having the same interests and purposes. Your Iowa Library Association is such a group.

The object of this organization, as set forth in the Constitution, is "to promote the library interests in the state of Iowa." By uniting with other members, you signify your desire to help promote those interests. Over 700 librarians, trustees and library friends have, in the past year, shown that they consider this objective worthy enough to merit their membership and assistance.

Your officers consist of president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary, treasurer and three members elected to serve on the Executive Board for three-year terms. This Executive Board is composed of the officers, these three members and the ALA Councilor, together with the retiring president. It holds several meetings a year.

This Executive Council directs the affairs of the Association. One of their responsibilities is to plan for the meetings of the Association, both state and district. They fill vacancies that occur between meetings of the Association. They also decide on the sections into which the members may be divided to get the greatest benefit from the meetings. At the request of the members, these sections or divisions are formed. In this way the Trustees Section, the College Section and the group of those interested in Work with Children were formed.

There are two types of membership, individual and institutional. The individual memberships are $1.00 a year. The membership year is from January 1 through December 31. Librarians, library trustees and friends of the library are entitled to individual memberships.

Institutional dues are based on the library income. The following is the scale on which they are figured:

| | |
|---|---|
| Up to $500 | .50 |
| $500 to $1,000 | 1.00 |
| $1000 to $2500 | 1.50 |
| $2500 to $5000 | 2.00 |
| $5000 to $10,000 | 3.00 |
| $10,000 to $15,000 | 5.00 |
| $15,000 and over | 10.00 |

In maintaining institutional membership, libraries thus pay in proportion to their ability, recognizing the influence of the Association throughout the state.

A study of the budget of the Association brings the knowledge that the money brought in by dues is wisely spent. Much of it goes to promote legislation. The hard work of the Legislative Committee was responsible for raising the tax levy for public libraries from 1¼ to 2 mills. Many of the libraries of the state have been taking advantage of the higher levy and doing things in their libraries that were impossible under the old, inadequate support.

The Extension Committee is composed of one member from each of the nine districts into which the state has been divided. These districts correspond to the Farm Bureau districts. The chairman keeps the members informed of the developments in the work of the committee. This is considered a key committee of the Association. Much depends on the manner in which the library idea is extended into the thinking of the people of Iowa, both rural and urban.

For several years, the president has been inviting the chairmen of the important committees to meet with the Executive Board and help make plans for the work of the Association. This was one way to bridge the gap left when the meetings of the group were called off.

The Publicity Committee is planning to cover the state through district chairmen. There will also be a publicity contest held at the state meeting in the spring. This should



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be a fruitful source of publicity ideas for those who have run out of ideas of their own.

The Membership Committee wants you to join if you have not already done so. You need the Association and it needs you and your help.

Not long ago we were talking with someone who belonged to a small church in a community rich with churches. She remarked that many people came from the large congregations to the smaller church because they wanted to join one where there was work for them to do. You may be assured that there is work for everyone in the Iowa Library Association. No one knows how hard it is to get the members to take on responsibilities until she tries it. Each incoming president is overwhelmed with the reluctance of many to assume responsibilities in untried fields. And yet, we often hear the criticism that the same people are doing the work all the time. It is often the case of the willing horse that is being worked to death.

A few years ago the librarian of the State Traveling Library sent out a letter to all the trustees of the state urging them to join the Association. One board member wrote that it smacked of "union tactics" for such membership to be urged on small libraries. She stated that the library trustee served without any remuneration (which they are not allowed to receive by law) and that she could not see any reason for them to pay dues to the Iowa Library Association. That very point of view was the strongest argument that could have been advanced for a membership and activities that would broaden their outlook.

Your president would be glad to have you write to her and tell what kind of work you would like to do for the Association. There are committees that need members and new ideas.

### WHY NINE DISTRICTS?

At the state library meeting held in Fort Dodge in September 1938, the Iowa Library Association adopted the recommendations of Frances Warner, chairman of the Extension Committee, which was to divide the state into nine districts corresponding to the Farm Bureau districts. The idea back of this plan was that work with the Farm Bureau might be closer if the areas were the same.

The plan worked so well that other committees have also appointed district chairmen who work with the libraries in the 11 counties of the district, thus making a network for complete coverage.

At present, there are district chairmen for the extension, membership, and publicity committees.

The following county combinations make up the districts:

District No. 1: Allamakee, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Howard, Winneshiek

District No. 2: Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Humboldt, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago, Worth, Wright

District No. 3: Buena Vista, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Sioux.

District No. 4: Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Guthrie, Harrison, Ida, Monona, Sac, Shelby, Woodbury

District No. 5: Boone, Dallas, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Jasper, Marshall, Polk, Story, Webster.

District No. 6: Benton, Cedar, Clinton, Iowa, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Poweshiek, Scott, Tama

District No. 7: Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington

District No. 8: Appanoose, Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Warren, Wayne

District No. 9: Adair, Adams, Cass, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Taylor, Union

## IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

**1946**

President—Mrs. Ruth Hollingshead, Albia
1st Vice-President—Helen Rex, Marshalltown
2nd Vice-President—Mrs. Walter Fife, Corning
Secretary—Opal Tanner, Muscatine
Treasurer—Alice Lammers, Central College, Pella

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

Blanch A. Smith, State Traveling Library,
Mrs. H. E. Narey, Spirit Lake
Thelma Spicer, Oelwein
Blanche Stewart, Waterloo
Lydia Margaret Barrette, Mason City

**A. L. A. REPRESENTATIVE**

Mae C. Anders, Public Library, Des Moines

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Arlene Russell, Waverly P. L.
Mrs. Edith Naylor, Clear Lake
Evelyn Simpson, Spencer P. L.
Sadie Stevens, Carroll P. L.
Mrs. Herbert Hadley, Nevada
Alice Story, Cedar Rapids P. L.
Lelia Wilson, Fairfield P. L.
Mrs. Harry Weinman, Indianola
Margaret Ball, Creston P. L.

**Publicity**

Chairman: Lillian Enlow, Waterloo H. S.
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Cecily Hinton, Mason City P. L.
Martha Naumann, Storm Lake P. L.
Mrs. C. C. Van Wagner, Rockwell City P. L.
Mrs. Neal Hammer, Newton H. S.
Aleta Malmberg, Iowa City H. S.
Irma Hopley, Fort Madison P. L.
Thelma Kirkpatrick, Centerville P. L.
Anna Driftmier, Clarinda P. L.

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Irene Sievkin, Dubuque P. L.
Mrs. H. W. Woodward, Whittemore P. L.
Mrs. R. W. Haas, Emmetsburg P. L.
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Miriam Garner, Des Moines P. L.
Marian Dunham, Grinnell P. L.
Bess Blood, Keokuk P. L.
Beryl Hoyt, Simpson College, Indianola
Mrs. E. J. Gottsch, Shenandoah

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Elizabeth Lilly, Burlington P. L.

**Auditing**

Chairman: Cornelia Rhynsburger
Pella
Blanche Maytag, Newton P. L.

**Certification**

Chairman: Blanche A. Smith
Mae C. Anders, Des Moines P. L.
Frances Warner, I. S. C., Ames

**Nominating**

Chairman: Edna Giesler
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Thelma Spicer, Oelwein H. S.
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**Plaque Award**

Chairman: Forrest B. Spaulding
Des Moines P. L.
Mrs. Lawrence Falvey, Albia
Robert Orr, I. S. C., Ames

**Reference Books**

Chairman: Blanche A. Smith
S. T. L., Des Moines
Margaret Fullerton, Des Moines P. L.
Carrie Larson, East H. S., Des Moines
Elizabeth Windsor, Coe College, Cedar Rapids
W. H. McFarland, Dept. of Pub. Instr., State House, Des Moines

**Legislation**

Chairman: Helen Rex
Marshalltown P. L.
Letha Davidson, Ames P. L.
Don Berry, Indianola
Lucille Stull, Des Moines P. L.
Mildred Pike, Sioux City P. L.

## WORKSHOP CONFERENCES

After several years of no library meetings, the news that there were to be four workshops held in October was good news indeed, and many librarians, trustees and friends of libraries responded to the call.

The meetings were held on October 16 at Spirit Lake, October 21 at Clear Lake, October 23 at Burlington and October 31 at Red Oak.

Mrs. Leonard Bergman presided at the Spirit Lake meeting and with her vivid personality and real interest in library work kept discussion moving. She began by asking if the group would like to have a gripe session first and rising to the occasion and to start discussion, Mrs. Haas of Emmetsburg threw out a suggestion that perhaps country people don't care much about reading. Some other librarians also had had difficulty in getting rural men and women sufficiently interested in the library to support it. But the discussion shaped up well when Mary Ellen Evans raised the question about the children's needs and interests. Miss Peterson of Estherville made a good contribution about the work of their county superintendent. The fact that two farm women were interested enough to

come to a professional discussion meeting and that Mrs. Haas had some interesting details about Hardin County to contribute made the morning session a very satisfactory one.

A young soldier just returned from service read Archbishop Spellman's 'Prayer of Thanksgiving After Victory" to open the afternoon session. He read in a beautifully moving fashion.

Under the discussion about cooperation Royce Carstens told of the bibliographic center in Denver and how much more can be accomplished through working together than can be done alone.

The book discussions were very informal and spirited with definite opinions expressed. Mrs. H. E. Nary made some fine comments. One book by Tom Yoseloff on Lawrence Sterne was of especial interest to many who were present because Tom Yoseloff had lived in Spirit Lake as well as Mason City and many who were there knew him and there had been quite a general reading of his book. The Spirit Lake meeting was a spontaneous sort of a meeting.

The Clear Lake Worshop Conference opened with Archbishop Spellman's prayer read by Mrs. Frances Fritsch of Garner. As she read, the church bells rang and everyone there felt dedicated to service. Mrs. Edith Naylor opened the discussion on rural library extension. Questions brought out some heartening experiences, township arrangements and other informal plans that lead to larger work. Mrs. Woodward of Whittemore was encouraging in regard to interest in their part of the district. Helen Rex of Marshalltown pointed out the value of service to rural residents and expressed an opinion that Cerro Gordo County was fortunate in having a specially trained person to work with rural people. She feels that it is most important to give the farmers expert help.

Miss Rex led the discussion on legislation with graphs and there were many questions and much interest shown.

Mrs. Donald Carr led the discussion on cooperation and had an exhibit of work from the Cerro Gordo County Friends of Libraries which shows how much can be accomplished by getting wide interest. The book discussions were very simulating, led by Mae Anders, Miriam Garner and Ruth Carson of Des Moines. They were concise and all those present were grateful for their help.

Mrs. Mary Bowman, formerly librarian at Clear Lake, gave a good clear note about Anna Louise Strong's "People of the U. S. S. R."

Miss Barrette presided at this meeting.

There were about 36 at Burlington to renew acquaintances and discuss matters of mutual interest. We were honored to have Mrs. Ruth Hollingshead, president of the Iowa Library Association, present. It was also pleasant to have Winnefred Wennerstrum appear on the program. She had made a name for herself in her success in putting Iowa on the map in the Library Development Fund. She spoke about legislation and the Library Association, what it needs and how we may get it. Some of the charts prepared to show the practicability of county service were of special interest to those present.

Lelia Wilson of Fairfield talked about book buying and discarding, two matters of constant importance to librarians, and increasingly important as the income becomes smaller. She quoted Miss Robinson on the matter of book selection as saying it is like sorting potatoes, it takes so much judgment.

The Burlington library board were hosts to those attending the meeting for luncheon at the Golf Club, a deeply appreciated courtesy. No less appreciated was the presence of the members at the morning and afternoon meetings and the interest taken in the discussions.

Mrs. Hollingshead, in her talk at

the afternoon session, brought home to everyone present the necessity of doing his utmost in carrying forward library interests in the year ahead. Being able to look at the questions that confront us from the point of view of the trustee as well as the librarian, Mrs. Hollingshead's remarks were important to librarian and library board member alike. The questions that came up in the discussion period showed that all present had listened with the idea of putting into practice many of the ideas the day had brought forth.

The Red Oak Workshop Conference was marked with the presence of all the Red Oak library trustees with the single exception of one who was out of town. Mr. Powell welcomed us and turned over the library to us. Miss Wennerstrum spoke on legislation and interpreted the charts that had been prepared by the county seat librarians of the district. Several who could not come had sent their charts. The most interesting in point of size and special interest was the one Miss Driftmier had prepared for Page County.

Mrs. Hollingshead gave another call to arms, Blanche Smith emphasized greater care in spending the book budget. Mrs. Jennie Gottsch, president of the Shenandoah library board, and Anna Driftmier, Clarinda librarian, spoke of the success of the Page County plan for reaching all the residents of the county.

Mrs. Walter Fife, second vice-president of the I L A, talked on "The Library from the farm angle" a subject which her rural life made it possible to handle with conviction.

Mrs. Francis Turner of Corning emphasized the responsibility of the library trustee in carrying out the program of the Association. Mrs. Turner is president of the Trustees section.

It was a great joy to have Mrs. Dorothy Houghton, ex-president of the Association, present.

At the close of the meeting, the library board enteretained at tea at Mrs. Lyman Turner's home, a fitting climax to a happy and profitable day. More than 60 were in attendance.

### Iowa Library Association Radio Program

**Heard Over**

### W O I

**November 2, 1945—9:00-9:30 A. M.**

Mr. Griffith introduces Mrs. Ruth Hollingshead, President of the Iowa Library Association; Helen Rex, President-elect and Chairman of the Legislative Committee; and Blanche A. Smith, Librarian of the State Traveling Library.

**Griffith:** Mrs. Hollingshead, are you a librarian?

**Hollingshead:** No, I am a member of the library board of the Albia Public Library.

**Griffith:** Is it customary to have the library trustee serve as president of the state association?

**Smith:** About once in four years the Iowa Library Association elects a trustee as President of the Association. In 1940 Mrs. Hiram Houghton of Red Oak was our president. That was the last year in which we held a state meeting. Since then it has been pleasant to look back and remember that meeting held on the campus at Ames in September, don't you agree, Miss Rex?

**Rex:** The Association definitely benefits from having a board member of wide vision and genuine interest in library affairs, direct the affairs of the Iowa Library Association for a year. Mrs. Hollingshead has been on the library board at Albia for a good many years. She was chairman of her district in the trustees' section. She has made it a point to attend library meetings and keep in touch with the library world.

**Smith:** We are all looking forward to a very good library year. We have an increase in membership. Do you remember, Mrs. Hollingshead, what the membership is at present?

**Hollingshead:** We now have 779 members, most of them are librarians or staff members of public libraries. There seems to be a tendency in small places to question the advantages of membership in the Iowa Library Association.

**Smith:** We often have that question and, I think, it comes from the people who need the advantages of the Association most. Unfortunately, we can't point out all the tangible factors. When a community organizes and maintains a library it recognizes that access to good reading is one of the important factors in the lives of their citizens who want library service. They should want the best service that can be obtained.

**Hollingshead:** And the Iowa Library Association is an organization of Libraries, Librarians, and Trustees, all eager to secure the best possible service for their own communities and for the state at large.

**Rex:** They are not only interested in improving conditions of service and helping libraries to do a better job in securing more adequate support for libraries. We must remember that it was the Iowa Library Association which secured the legislation permitting local councils to levy a two mill tax for the general library fund. Formerly the tax had been one and one-quarter mills.

**Smith:** In many other fields it has been shown that it is only when people and institutions of similar interests are welded into an organized group that they are able to accomplish the greatest good. For that and similar reasons it is important for all libraries and all librarians to belong to the Iowa Library Association.

**Hollingshead:** That is just saying in another way what the Iowa Library Association announces as its purpose, "the object of the Association is to promote the library interest of the state."

**Rex:** It is a two-fold responsibility in that the Association must improve existing library services and also organize service in those parts of the state where it does not exist. The Iowa Library Association must analyze the library services we have in Iowa and study ways for improvement. For example 44 per cent of the residents of Iowa have no free library service. That means that 44 per cent of Iowa's residents contribute nothing in the way of taxes to support library service in their local communities. They have to depend on the non-resident service in a library located at some distance or borrow by mail from the State Traveling Library. With its present budget and limited facilities the State Traveling Library is in a poor position to increase its services, is it not, Miss Smith?

**Smith:** The possibilities for more extensive library service in Iowa are almost unlimited. We do not dare advertise, because we can't do much more than we are doing at present with the staff, quarters, and appropriation available. In September we circulated 16,740 books to schools, libraries, community organizations and individuals. We answered 196 reference questions. Some of these questions required hours of work and often an extensive bibliography. Many clubs in Iowa communities depend on our library for the planning and execution of their club programs.

**Hollingshead:** But you're not supposed to be at the library very much, are you? Don't you have many requests to make library visits?

**Smith:** It should be possible for every library in the state to be visited at least once a year. It is impossible to do it because at present there is no one to help with this work and I have not found it possible to be away that much of the time. There is plenty to do in administering a library of this size and especially under wartime conditions, with short staff and increased work.

**Rex:** The State Traveling Library needs at least one full time person in the field. Such a field worker would consult with individual librarians and boards of trustees throughout the state. She would aid small libraries in their cooperation with other libraries. Having been the only librarian in a town, I know how much encouragement from another librarian means.

**Smith:** I have at least 20 letters urgently requesting library visits in the near future. If it weren't so tragic it would be almost amusing to compare the need of service with that which we are able to give under existing conditions.

**Hollingshead:** And what would you say is the greatest need in the library situation?

**Smith:** I would say that the greatest need is a coordination of existing library facilities. There are four counties in Iowa that have some kind of library service at the present. These all operate under the contract law which our library laws permit. Page county has long given county-wide service through the two libraries at Clarinda and Shenandoah. Hardin county offers service through her five public libraries, and Dubuque county has contract through the Dubuque Public Library to carry on the excellent service started by the Dubuque Library Association. And the county which has most recently achieved the goal of county-wide service is Cerro Gordo, working through the Mason City and Clear Lake libraries.

**Hollingshead:** With 99 counties in Iowa, why do you suppose there are only four counties with county-wide library service?

**Smith:** The law has been in force for about 18 years and it's true four counties out of the 99 is a very small proportion taking advantage of it. The Iowa Library Association has been working for a true county library law, which would be an improvement over the present contract plan. Since Miss Rex has been chairman of the legislative committee for the last two years, I think she should be the one to answer as to the weaknesses of the present laws and plans for improving Iowa library laws.

**Rex:** First let me say that any comments any members of the ILA make about the present laws for rural library service are not criticism of the operation of the law in the four counties mentioned: i. e., Hardin, Page, Dubuque and Cerro Gordo. They are justly proud of the library services they offer in their respective counties. The real criticism of the present laws is that so few counties have been able to use them. Saying why they do not take advantage of

the present contract law is of course a matter of opinion.

**Hollingshead:** Can you tell us why you think so few counties use the present contract plan?

**Rex:** I have some reasons here that members of the ILA have discussed at various times.

1. The present law requires a county board of supervisors to contract with existing libraries in the county for service to rural patrons. This means that if there is no city or town library in the county ready and willing, there can be no library service for rural people in that county.

2. There is no provision for a county library board or any representation on the library board that provides the service. This is in fact, taxation without representation.

**Smith:** And this fact is probably one of the major reasons rural people haven't been more interested in having library service under the present law.

**Rex:** I agree. Rural people just did not feel that such service was their own.

My third reason why the present law is a weak one is that the millage levy allowed is one-fourth of a mill. This is not enough to support adequate library service in most counties in Iowa. Miss Smith can tell us what adequate support would be.

**Smith:** According to Standards for Public Libraries as outlined by the ALA,

"The achievement of a national minimum of $1 per capita annually for public library support in all political jurisdictions should be the joint goal of local, state and federal governments. This $1 per capita figure is determined by the application of average cost figures to the minimum standards of service detailed herein. The following minimum standards of support are recommended for varying stages of development of library service in areas with 25,000 population and over:

For limited or minimum service.....$1 per capita

For reasonably good service.....$1.50 per capita

For superior service.....$2.00 per capita

In libraries serving areas with a population under 25,000 the per capita measures should be increased to the $25,000 minimum income standard of support, or one or more of the alternatives for increasing support mentioned above should be adopted. In other words, for libraries in areas of less than 25,000 population, exact per capita standards of support do not apply."

**Rex:** I have figures here which should be seen to be thoroughly understood. But briefly one-fourth mill levy in some counties would yield very little. Others would approach the minimum standard of $1.00 per capita.

**Hollingshead:** I want to repeat these weaknesses of the present Iowa library law.

1. Present law allows for rural library service through existing libraries only.

2. No rural people can serve on a library board in the State of Iowa at the present time.

3. Good library service requires more than one-fourth of a mill for adequate support.

**Rex:** That's a very good brief summary of the weak points in present provisions for rural library service in Iowa. Now let me tell you what the Iowa Library Association proposes to do about it. The ILA is going to sponsor a county library bill in the 1947 session of the legislature. We are going to sponsor the same bill we did in the last session. The bill was passed by the Senate without dissenting vote. It got lost in the last minute rush in the House. Next time, we hope to have a better start.

**Hollingshead:** Just what are the provisions of the proposed county library bill? I assume it will take care of the shortcomings of present laws you have just mentioned.

**Rex:** The county library bill is a very simple one. It parallels the law for cities and towns almost exactly. In towns the city council appoints the city library board. We are asking that the board of supervisors appoint the county library board in the proposed law. This county library board would be able to organize library service suitable for the needs of the county.

**Smith:** Would the county library board organize an entirely new library unit?

**Rex:** That would be for the county board to decide. They would be empowered to organize an entirely new library for the use of county residents or contract with an existing library to provide service to all of the county.

**Hollingshead:** Then that would mean no county would have to be without a library because there was no library in the county that could handle the county contract.

**Rex:** Yes, and, in addition, small libraries in the county could contract with the county if they wished.

**Smith:** I can see how this would benefit many small libraries where the county unit would be the stronger unit and could help all libraries in towns pool their resources and thus strengthen county service, too. How about the financial support in the proposed law?

**Rex:** The county library bill provides for a one mill levy. The majority of counties could receive $1 per capita on the one mill and some counties could have $1.50 per capita at one-half mill. In this connection it is well to remember that good library service in rural areas is going to cost more per capita than in cities and towns.

**Smith:** And libraries like other tax supported services need to be considered in tax study and revision. For the present a one mill levy for county libraries could be the goal even though it may not satisfy every county entirely.

**Hollingshead:** If this law is passed do you think it will reduce the 44% in Iowa who do not have library service?

**Rex:** The county library law would only be one small step toward the goal of the Iowa Library Association — BOOKS FOR ALL IOWA. I think it's very important to mention on a program for the Iowa Council for Better Education that a county library law in Iowa will require action before and after its enactment. First, action to get the law passed and second, action to put it to use. We have to work toward our goals from several directions.

**Hollingshead:** Can you be more specific and mention the directions from which we can approach better library service in Iowa?

**Rex:** 1. Get the county library law made a law.

2. Strengthen the advisory services of the State Traveling Library.

3. Bring about State support and equalization of library services throughout the state.

**Hollingshead:** Where does Iowa rank in library service in comparison with other states?

**Smith:** According to the latest available figures, we rank 31st among the 48 states in library service.

**Hollingshead:** Not a record to which we as Iowans can point with pride. The Iowa Library Association is definitely pledged to the carrying forward of a program to raise the standards of existing library service in Iowa, and to extend this service to everyone in Iowa. With the help of many interested organizations such as the Farm Bureau, the Iowa Council for Better Education, and the Iowa State Teachers' Association, the P. T. A. and a number of others, this goal can be reached.

**Rex:** Where does Iowa rank in the amount per capita spent on library service?

**Smith:** Again our record is not good. We rank 23rd among the states in the amount per capita spent on library service, and yet Iowa ranks in the upper third of the states in wealth.

**Hollingshead:** I think the time is ripe for library development and extension. The people are bending every effort to secure peace, and they realize that in order to make peace lasting, there must be an educated citizenry. Men and women must educate themselves for this new world in which they must live. They must know how to read and to listen and to form opinions intelligently.

**Smith:** Yes, our citizens must learn to think in world terms but in order to do this they will need help. It is the task of the libraries to see that the citizens of the various communities have available the material that will give unbiased, factual knowledge of the basic factors underlying the establishment and the maintaining of peace.

**Rex:** Carl Vitz, ex-president of the American Library Association, has said: "Peace is more than terms imposed—peace is the social order intended to be created as the result of measures taken jointly by our own and other political leaders. But only effective support and cooperation by every individual citizen in each of the countries concerned will actually bring about peace. No matter how wisely conceived, no plan can work, especially in a democratic country, without citizen support."

**Hollingshead:** Libraries can participate in the rebuilding of the world by supplying reading material which will promote thinking about the subject.

**Rex:** Carl Vitz said too, in speaking of the task confronting librarians, "We must promote thinking **about** the subject but without telling people **what** to think. It is our chance to render a public service of inestimable value."

**Hollingshead:** Donald Keneth Campbell said in his article on Libraries and the post-war world, "Post war planning takes in so many things. It is food or famine—it is world cooperation, or isolationism—it is education, or the lack of it. It is inter-racial suspicion, or inter-racial tolerance. It is barter, and wage levels, and colonies, and national aspirations—it is defeat or it is victory. It is all such things, and countless more. Some one of them touches everyone and that is the reason everybody must be concerned in planning for after-the-war. Libraries are significant in all this, because they have the facts, more than any other single institution. Libraries must help people see basic values in what looks little or unimportant. Librarians must work on the basis of problems that hit people where they live and feel. This is our workshop."

**Smith:** The Iowa Library Association realizing that in a democracy the welfare of the state depends upon the education of its citizens, and that books are the storehouse of knowledge, believes that it is the duty of the state to extend library service to all of its citizens.

**Rex:** Libraries are a public service and it isn't democratic to have 44 per cent of its citizens deprived of libraries. Schools and libraries are the heritage and right of every Iowan.

**Hollingshead:** The Iowa Library Association must bring together all the librarians, from the large and small libraries, from the college and high school libraries, all library trustees, and all friends of libraries in country and in town, so that they can unite and work for adequate library service in Iowa.

**Rex:** Community support is the foundation upon which the library stands, and so community interest must be aroused. We are asking your help in carrying forward this program which is so important to all of us.

**Smith:** As Daniel Burnham said, "Make no little plans: they have no magic to stir

men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work."

## A MESSAGE TO THE LIBRARIANS OF AMERICA

By Pearl S. Buck

Books are more important today than ever before. The most urgent need for our times is for more information, given to more people. For the great decisions which are being forced upon us all, world decisions which will affect millions of people as well as ourselves, must be made not by any little group of men in any capital, but by the peoples of the democratic countries, and especially by the people of the United States.

Writers are aware of this immediate need. Today they are working harder than ever before to find and write about the facts which the people ought to have about the war, the peace and other peoples. Publishers are working hard, in spite of paper shortage, to publish the needed books. But both writers and publishers are dependent upon those who distribute books, and the librarian is the key person in the situation. The librarian is the transmission. It is the librarian upon whom the writer and the publisher depend, and the person to whom the reader turns. The librarian must not be the keeper of books, he must be the dispenser of books. He must be more than this —he must be the stimulator, the public teacher, to persuade people that they must first know in order to be able to act wisely.

For the greatest single danger in our society today is the impetuous urge to act, without the knowledge to make action wise. Political action, particularly, unless it is based on sound knowledge, is the most dangerous. To act is easy, to know is hard. It is the duty of the librarian, not only to put knowledge at the disposal of the people, but to urge the ignorant to know, to persuade the lazy to read and to think, to use every possible means to lure the reluctant and the trivial to discover the essential truths.

Knowledge is in books. Thinking minds, intelligent spirits, put their essence into books. The only way to bring contact on a large enough scale between these sources of knowledge and the people who need that knowledge is to bring books and people together. Informed public action can come only from an informed public opinion. An informed public opinion can only come from an informed public interest. And informed public interest can only come from informed people.

Yes, the librarian is the most important person just now in the country. Why do I say our country? For as the average American today knows and thinks and decides, the world will go. The librarian is at this moment the most important person in the world.

—From **News Notes and Quotations** May, 1945. School of Library Service of Columbia University.

## KIPLING'S CAT AND YOU

So you are a librarian. How many other librarians do you talk things over with? It depends on whether or not you live in a big or a little town. If you are in a place big enough to have several on the library staff, or where there is a high school library or a college library, then of course there is more than one librarian in town.

But if you are one of the great number of Iowa librarians who stand alone in the community, who have none to confer with except the members of the library board, then you and Kipling's cat know what it means to "walk alone."

What can one do about it? There must be some way to contact others who are doing the same kind of work, facing the same pleasures and disturbances in the daily work, who wonder if there isn't a better way of doing this or that, if people might be interested in the library if the proper technique were known, and used. To be sure there is. And that is just why the librarians in Iowa organized the Iowa Library Association. That is why we elect officers

who will guide the business of the association, plan meetings and make it possible for us to come together. We need each other and it means much to know what other librarians look like, what they are thinking about, what they are planning for the future.

For several years librarians have been doing their share toward winning the victory and one of the things they have done without is library meetings. It has been a great loss, especially to the smaller places where the only contact the librarian and the members of the library board had was at the district and state meetings. Now we are going to have a meeting and we hope the attendance will bear out what so many have written,—that the librarians of Iowa want a library meeting. It is going to be in Des Moines, because more people come here than any other place in Iowa. We feel that all should have an equal chance to attend this, our victory meeting.

Membership notices will be reaching you any time now. Maybe you have received yours already. We hope you have sent it in. If not, what has kept you from doing it? Have you wondered what you may get out of such a membership? Why do you join anything? Because you believe in the thing that the organization stands for. This is one big reason. It explains why we keep up our membership in church, clubs, fraternal organizations, professional and politicaal organizations of various sorts. It's why your husband belongs to Rotary, Lions, or Kiwanis. But there is another reason that comes closer to you than the main objective. You belong to organizations because you like to have contact with the people who belong. You like to see them, to talk over the affairs of the day and hour, to find out how they stand on controversial matters. That's why you keep up your membership in your Country Club, Bridge Club, Federated Clubs.

Well, here is your Iowa Library Association with a worthy objective for existing and offering you the chance to become acquainted with others who like to do what you are doing, and who will be glad to meet you and find out how you are getting along.

Membership includes all librarians, and library board members, especially library board members. It is of utmost importance for them to know what is going on in library circles, in the state and even in the next town. Things have been moving pretty rapidly in the library world and one falls behind if he doesn't make every effort to keep up with the procession.

## READING PUBLIC PREFERS NON-FICTION, 17-CITY SURVEY SHOWS; FAVORITE SUBJECTS ALSO STUDIED

Among the reading public as a whole non-fiction is more popular than fiction with a majority indicating as their favorite subjects "human behavior," "interesting personalities," or "homemaking." These reading interests are revealed by results of a survey made by the National Opinion Research Center, University of Denver, for the American Library Association and 17 cooperating city libraries throughout the United States.

Nearly half—45%—of those interviewed say they prefer non-fiction while 35% say they would rather read fiction. Sixteen per cent say they read one about as much as the other and 4% are undecided.

In each of the 17 cities whose public libraries collaborated with the American Library Association in having the survey made, NORC interviewers talked with a miniature cross-section of the civilian adult population with the proper proportion — in every standard-of-living bracket—of men and women, young and old, various minority groups. Suburban areas were excluded.

Two of NORC's questions were de-

signed to survey people's reading interests. One pertained only to the reading of fiction and non-fiction:

"Which do you read most often . . . **fiction,** such as novels or short stories . . . or **non-fiction,** such as books that deal with facts?"

| | Per Cent |
|---|---|
| Fiction | 35 |
| Non fiction | 45 |
| Both about the same | 16 |
| Undecided | 4 |
| | 100 |

Actual library patrons, however, show an opposite preference. Of persons who say they obtain most of their books from the public library, 40% say they prefer fiction and 36% prefer non-fiction.

Another question on reading interests asked by NORC was:

"Which one of these subjects do you think you would find the **most** interesting? Which one do you think would be the **least** interesting?

| | Most | Least |
|---|---|---|
| | % | % |
| Human behavior | 20 | 3 |
| Interesting personalities | 19 | 1 |
| Foreign countries | 11 | 6 |
| Information about your work | 9 | 2 |
| Homemaking | 8 | 8 |
| Politics | 7 | 27 |
| Religion | 10 | 6 |
| Poetry | 2 | 26 |
| Science and invention | 8 | 14 |
| Undecided | 4 | 7 |
| | 108 | 100 |

Because some people name more than one subject, the replies may total more than 100%.

That people's reading interests vary according to a person's sex, education, and age is also shown by NORC's survey. Fiction is the choice of more women than men as the following distribution of preferences reveals:

| Prefer: | Men | Women |
|---|---|---|
| | % | % |
| Fiction | 24 | 44 |
| Non-fiction | 58 | 33 |
| About the same | 13 | 19 |
| Undecided | 5 | 4 |
| | 100 | 100 |

A more detailed analysis indicates that men tend to be much more interested than women in books on such subjects as politics, foreign countries, vocational information, and science and invention. Women are somewhat more interested than men in books on human behavior, interesting personalities, religion, and —as might be expected—are very much more interested in books on homemaking.

People with a limited education are more apt to be interested in such subjects as homemaking and religion, while those with a more extensive educational background tend to prefer books on human behavior, interesting personalities, or vocational subjects. So far as age groups are concerned, adults 40 years old and over read more non-fiction and those under 40 more fiction. Although many specific tastes are similar, the 40-year-old-and-over group shows greater preference for books on religion.

The 17 cities cooperating with the American Library Association in having the survey made by NORC included: Atlanta, Baltimore, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Hartford (Connecticut), Houston, Kansas City (Missouri), Louisville (Kentucky), Milwaukee, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland (Oregon), St. Louis, San Francisco, and Seattle.

## PERSONALS

**Mrs. Dorothy Ash** has been chosen as Cedar Falls high school librarian, following the resignation of Mrs. Coella Pountain whose husband has returned from overseas service.

**Florence W. Butler,** director of work with children in the Sioux City Public Library, has been appointed to membership on the book evaluation committee of the American Library Association. This committee of five votes on the Caldecott and Newbery awards given to the artist and illustrator and author of the most distinguished childrens books published during the current year.

The October issue of **Mademoiselle** contains a picture of **Jean Crooks** of Greenfield as she entertains a group of youngsters at story hour in Fordham branch of New York Public Li-

brary. "A children's librarian has to be resilient" Miss Crook is quoted as saying. "Often we pick out 800 books a day. The tension is terrific, but libraries are not hush-hush sanctums any more. Our aim is to get the kids excited about bookland and book people". She is a graduate of Columbia Library School.

**Myrtle Dunlap,** recently discharged from the WAVES has returned to Davenport high school where she resumes her work as school librarian after serving her country since July 1943.

The Johnson Brigham plaque award for 1945 was given to **John Towner Frederick** in recognition of his book **Out of the Midwest.** Mr. Frederick was formerly professor of English in the State University of Iowa and now resides in Clennis, Michigan. He remarks in **Out of the Midwest** that midwesterners are reading more thoroughly, more critically and more hopefully than ever before. The Iowa Library News says "Iowans remember how much John Towner Frederick did for years at the University of Iowa to discover and encourage new talent. He published **The Midland** from 1915 through 1929. He knows the people of the midwest; he has a genuis for appreciation and his words carry weight." Iowans feel that this award is worthily granted.

### WANTED

The Wall Lake library would like to purchase a second hand desk. Write to Mrs. C. H. Young if you have one to sell.

### NEWS FROM IOWA LIBRARIES

**Council Bluffs**—Mr. and Mrs. McMicken Hanchett entertained the members of the library board and the staff and friends of the library at tea October 14 honoring Eva T. Canon, retiring librarian, and welcoming Eleanor Ferguson, her successor, and Mildred Treman, children's librarian.

**Creston**—Under the caption "Creston librarian doing a great work" the News Advertiser of November 10 pays tribute to the work Margaret Ball is carrying on in the Mathilda J. Gibson Library.

**Dubuque** — Six of the original Audubon bird prints given to the library by the late Judge Oliver P. Shiras, were stolen from the second floor. The other 11 pictures were untouched.

**Dumont**—The library received a gift of $200 from Esther Brown, who died at Boulder, Colorado. The money is to be spent for new books.

**Grinnell** — Marian Dunham assumed her duties as librarian October 15, following the resignation of Mrs. Winifred Standing. Miss Dunham is a Grinnell graduate and received her library training at the University of Denver Library School.

**Iowa City—University Libraries**—Sarita Robinson, head of the catalog department, has left to become editor of Readers' Guide, published by the H. W. Wilson Company in New York.

Ruth Schley, of the catalog department, has accepted a position as senior cataloger in the University of Louisiana library at Baton Rouge.

Mrs. Genevieve Nunzenkaier, formerly of the Des Moines Public Library staff, has been appointed assistant in the order department.

Luanna G. Hall, librarian of the Education-Philosophy-Psychology departmental library, was married to Lotar V. Stahlecker on November 19. Mrs. Stahlecker will continue her library work.

Mrs. Lucille M. Wert, Simmons 1945, has been appointed librarian of the Mathematics-Physics departmental library succeeding Luella Pollock who resigned.

**La Porte City**—A free public library, made possible by the efforts of the Lions Club and donations by the people of the community, was opened to the public October 9. The room is located in the city hall and will be open three days a week. Mrs. Frances Nies is librarian.

**Mason City**—The Reverend Wilbur F. Dierking, pastor of the First Pres-

byterian church, was elected president of the Friends of Libraries at the November meeting. In his talk "Questions answered", Mr. Dierking said that the questions needing answer are not new to a library and that especially in this atomic age which has just come into being a great many world-shaking questions need answers, some of which will eventually be found in books preserved for future generations in our libraries. "This world can be helped to its birth as we go to the books on the shelves of our library for answers to our questions. To this end the Friends of Libraries have given and will continue to give of their time, talents and even treasures."

**Ottumwa**—A program of interior and exterior improvement to the extent of $7500 has been approved by the board of trustees of the library. Redecorating, new lighting and floor coverings are included in the list of projects.

**Pella**—Sara E. Gosselink, who has been assistant librarian for 10 years, has resigned her position. Mrs. A. C. Rempe has been appointed to fill the place.

**Pocahontas** — The Presbyterian church honored Mrs. Isabel Ralsoton on her 90th birthday October 12. Special services, cafteria dinner, with a birthday cake, and a corsage were features of the celebration. Mrs. Ralston helped organize the library 25 years ago and has served as librarian 22 years. She resigned this position a few years ago.

**Riceville** — Gertrude Weaver, librarian, is spending the winter with her sister Mrs. D. H. Patterson of Long Beach, California. Mrs. Lester Yager is in charge of the library during her absence.

**Sac City**—Mrs. Amie Baily, real friend of the library, has presented the library board with a bond for $1000, the income of which is to be used for the purchase of biographical and scientific books.

**Shenandoah**—The library has received $6000, residue of the A. J. Crose estate, for the building fund to provide an addition to the library and needed equipment. The plan is to raise the additional $25,000 needed to cover the expense.

**Sioux Rapids**—Two thirds of the $15,000 goal for the Memorial Library has already been raised. There has been enthusiastic response to the campaign for funds and the building is assured.

**Spencer** — Evelyn Simpson librarian of the Spencer Public Library, was hostess to neighboring librarians Sunday, November 25. Laura Shipley of Sheldon, Beth Annis of Algona and Lucile Peterson of Estherville came to talk over their common interests. The Spencer library board entertained the group at tea at Mrs. Wilson Cornwall's home in the afternoon. It was planned that the next meeting will be held in Algona.

**Stanton**—The Stanton Library Association held open house November 1 in their new home. The building formerly occupied by the Stanton State Bank was purchased and converted into a town hall and library. The mayor, city council and library committee received more than 215 people who called to admire the new quarters.

**Webster City**—After 35 years of faithful service in the Kendall Young Library, Charlotte Crosley resigned, effective February 1, and will be succeeded by Margaret Davidson, reference librarian at Waterloo Public Library. Miss Crosley was advanced from children's librarian to the librarianship of the library at the death of Mr. Burgess 15 years ago, and the library has progressed under her administration. She has placed special emphasis on the collection of historical records and has one of the outstanding collections of service records. She will be retained on part time basis to keep up these records.

**Westside**—Ella Rowder has been appointed librarian.

## CHANGES IN LIBRARY BOARDS

**Ames**—Henry R. Martin and Mrs. Clair Wilson have been named members of the library board.

**Bedford**—The resignation of Mrs. R. W. Thompson has been received with regret by the members of the board and patrons of the library. Mrs. Thompson has been an enthusiastic member for 29 years.

**Creston**—Alice Scanlon, principal of the Franklin school, is the newly appointed member of the board.

**Dubuque Library Association**—At the annual meeting of the Library Association, Olive Adams was elected president; Mrs. Hubert Landgraf, 1st vice president; Mrs. F. J. Bries, 2nd vice president; Mrs. John Mulfinger, treasurer; Mrs. Wm. B. Poinsett, III, recording secretary; Mrs. Clarence Zimmer, corresponding secretary. Catherine Seitz, librarian, reported an increased circulation over last year, with 65,403 books circulated, 58,427 to children. The Bookmobile service was doubled over the preceeding year, traveling 3,947 miles.

**LeMars** — Rosemary Sartori and Mrs. L. L. Belk are new members of the board, Miss Sartori succeeding Mrs. John Keenan, who resigned, and Mrs. Belk replacing Mrs. Ed Dalton, deceased.

**Lisbon**—Howard Mason and Mrs. Dean Bennett were appointed to fill the place left vacant by the resignation of Dr. E. P. Bigger and Mrs. Wilma Briggs. Dr. Bigger has served since the library was organized.

**Logan**—The city council approved the appointment of Mrs. George B. Kelly, Mrs. R. J. Wood and Mrs. Bertha Cutler to six year terms on the library board, and R. L. Hubbard and A. L. Harvey to three year terms.

**Malvern**—J. H. Dahlberg has been transferred to Fremont, Nebraska. He has been a member of the library board and will be greatly missed.

Max Ellis, a valued member of the library board, has been transferred to Omaha. Mrs. Belle Long succeeds him.

**Muscatine**—Mrs. Mildred Fogarty, high school teacher, has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late J. C. Van Lent.

**Nashua**—G. E. Ellison, member of the library board since 1902, 10 years of which he has served as president, resigned because of ill health.

**Titonka**—Mrs. A. O. Mardorf replaces Carrie Torgeson, resigned.

**Westside** — Mrs. Rose Buck has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mrs. Mary Byrnes. Mrs. C. L. Patterson, one of the founders of the library, has been elected president.

**Woodbine**—Bernice Cole has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mrs. A. E. De Cou.

## NECROLOGY

**Mrs. W. F. Bishop,** member of the Muscatine library board since 1916, died at the Bellevue hospital December 20 after an illness of several months.

**Mrs. Mary Byrnes,** president of the Westside library board since 1936 died on October 12.

**Mrs. Ed Dalton,** who had served as a LeMars library trustee for 22 years, died September 16.

**Mrs. A. E. De Cou,** member of the Woodbine library board, died September 5.

Lake City mourns the loss of their librarian, **Blanche Hackett,** on October 8, after an extended illness. Her service to the community and her faithfulness to library interests will be long remembered. Plans are under way for a Memorial shelf of books by her many friends.

**Mrs. Grant Pollock,** one of the founders of the Rolfe Public Library and librarian since its begining, died October 2 after several months illness.

**Mrs. E. J. Scofield,** lifelong resident of Osage and library trustee since 1907, died following a heart attack on October 17.